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M E M O R A N D U M

FOR: The Record

7 October 1948

FROM: Chief, FBIB

SUBJECT: Conference with Col. Wesley Guest, Chief of the Army Communications network, on 6 October 1948.

1. At a conference in Colonel Guest's office, attended by [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] FBIB's present communication 25X1
difficulties were outlined to Colonel Guest. It was pointed out that the service is unsatisfactory due to:

a. The unusually long period of time required to get messages through Army Signal Corps facilities;

b. The fact that the service is so undependable; and

c. Filing our traffic via Western Union as an alternate means is prohibitive for budgetary reasons.

2. Colonel Guest was very sympathetic with the FBIB problem, but pointed out that not only were all circuits loaded but that atmospheric conditions were causing them a great deal of difficulty and he could offer me no real encouragement as to an improvement of the service. He believed that it could be considerably improved when the U. N. General Assembly meetings in Paris were over. The next 30 to 60 days is also a poor time of the year for radio transmission.

3. It was agreed, however, that certain channels in the Army Signal Corps network were being declared completely out when they reach a certain level of readability, and that it was entirely possible that this level of readability would be entirely satisfactory for FBIB clear text traffic even though it was totally unsatisfactory for encoded messages. Colonel Guest agreed to start immediately to use one of these questionable circuits for FBIB traffic during those periods when a back log accumulates.

4. He further agreed that we could start sending 5,000 words daily from Washington to London with the same understanding. I agreed to advise him within the next few days whether or not this arrangement was working satisfactorily.

[redacted]

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